

# English Literature

**100%**  
Pass Rate

**82%**  
A\*-B Grades

**Enjoy**  
novels, poetry  
and plays

**Develop**  
analytical &  
debating skills

Visiting  
speakers and  
other extras



# A Level English Literature

In English Literature you will read and learn about the whole breadth of literary texts in English from Elizabethan sonnets and Shakespeare to contemporary novels and plays. As well as being intellectually challenging and endlessly fascinating, English Literature A level is a highly regarded subject that opens doors to top universities and careers. The course will equip you for a wide range of degree study, teaching you analytical skills and the ability to formulate an argument both orally and in writing, and significantly enriching your cultural knowledge and awareness.

You will study three units: Love Through the Ages, Literature From 1945 to the Present and the Non-exam assessment (NEA, better known as coursework).

In the First Year we study Shakespeare's great play of destructive jealousy *Othello*, and Ian McEwan's 2001 novel *Atonement* – an epic modern novel of family secrets set against the background of World War Two. You will also prepare and write your NEA, studying Mary Shelley's classic Gothic horror novel *Frankenstein* alongside another novel or play of your choice (with extracts to guide your choice if you need them). You will also begin your explorations of love poetry through the ages and extracts from post-1945 novels to significantly broaden your engagement with and enjoyment of the literature of our chosen themes.

In the Second Year, we compare Tennessee Williams' darkly comic 1940s play of family rivalries, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, with Welsh poet Owen Sheers' more recent writings on the challenges of the modern world in his collection *Skirrid Hill*. Contemporary themes are further explored through Margaret Atwood's hard-hitting dystopian novel *The Handmaid's Tale*, whilst you continue your journeys through love poetry and post-1945 prose in preparation for questions on unseen texts in the exams.

Outside lessons we encourage and support our students with High Grades sessions every week designed to help you read more widely and achieve the best grade you can. We support all our students'

higher education and career ambitions (and who better than an English teacher to help you with your UCAS personal statement?), and offer further support to students facing the particular demands of Oxford and Cambridge applications, an area where we are very proud of our students' successes.

In recent years, English students have enjoyed residential trips to London and Stratford upon Avon to explore attractions such as the Globe Theatre, The British Library and the RSC. We have also taken students to theatre productions closer to home in Manchester, Huddersfield and Liverpool, and have access to a huge range of online performances, and will be using our links with local universities to provide talks about our A Level texts and studying Literature beyond Runshaw.

## Entry Requirements:

5 x Grade 5s including Grade 6 in English Language or English Literature and a Grade 5 in the other.

## What's great about this course?



Explore literature in its wider contexts



Literature loving lecturers



Wider reading in High Grades Groups

For more information about our courses, visit [runshaw.ac.uk](http://runshaw.ac.uk)  
call **01772 643000** or email [info@runshaw.ac.uk](mailto:info@runshaw.ac.uk)